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WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program Bill Passes Senate

Madison, WI... Today, the Wisconsin State Senate passed Assembly Bill 732, a measure authored by Senator Jerry Petrowski (*R-Marathon*) and Representative Mary Felzkowski (*R-Irma*) to provide state funding for and expand the scope of the Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program (VORP) after federal grant funding expired last year.

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) has administered the program since 2014, through which the department has worked to address mental health issues amongst veterans in 49 of 72 counties. Under the program, the department works proactively with key stakeholders throughout the community to identify at-risk veterans and connect them with vital services in their area.

“Here in Wisconsin, we have an incredible support network of people available to help veterans in-need, from County Veteran Service Officers to nonprofit groups. One of the biggest challenges we face is actually connecting these veterans with the right resources, and VORP is a critical part of that effort,” said Senator Petrowski. “Although federal funding for the program ran out last year, I am proud of our commitment to continue and expand this vital program.”

AB 732 provides funding to allow the WDVA to expand the program statewide and broadens the scope of eligibility to include substance abuse treatment and housing assistance, in addition to the existing mental health services for former and current military service members.

Having now passed both houses of the Wisconsin State Legislature, the bill heads to Governor Scott Walker, where it is expected to be signed into law.

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